

KB8QOI Repeaters
 52.860 MHz
 146.74 MHz
 443.900 MHz

Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

September 2018

PO Box 343, Paris MI 49338

President: Dan Astleford, WA8AEN – president@braarc.net

Editor: Bruce, WB8TVD – wb8tvd@gmail.com

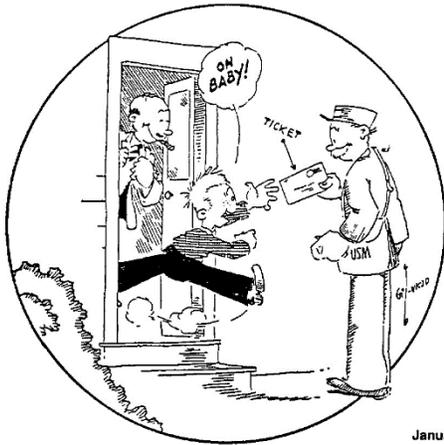
Web Page: www.braarc.net

Editor Emeritus: Phil, KC8QOV

Hello From Newsletter Editor Bruce, WB8TVD

It's me again. September! The unofficial End Of Summer! Fall! College Football! Color tours of falling leaves! Failed Summer to-do lists! Oh, I sure hope I'm not the only one! Full disclosure, they are the same items I did not get done last Summer. Consistency is a virtue, no? I'll keep pondering the list over most of the Fall. Some of them were even Ham Radio items. Sighhhhh.....

School – K-12 and college – is in session by now, and our snowbirds are getting ready to fly to warmer, more populated parts of the country. Those of us staying behind are planning on antenna work. As Arthur



January, 1934

Godfrey said in the first "Ham's Wide World" video, "If your antenna didn't come down last Winter, it wasn't big enough." I hope you are planning your antennas for the coming Arctic blast. It's on my to-do list. Still.

I have a book of cartoons by the famed Gil (Philip Gildersleeve, W1CJD (SK)), long-time artist at ARRL. I asked and received permission to print some in

our newsletter. Here's one that expresses how I felt when my Novice ticket came. It was an apartment mailbox at the front of the complex, and I was 28 at the time, but the feeling was pretty much the same as in 1934. Do you remember your first ticket?

As always, good or bad, here we go:

Announcements:

Club breakfast: 29 September 2018, 9:00am at Sharon's in Roger's Heights

Next meeting: 4 October 2018, 7:00pm at the BR Dept. of Public Safety.

Club nets: Sunday AND Thursday, 7:30pm, 440 repeater (except meeting night)

Tuesday, 9:00pm, 146 repeater

ARES net: First Tuesday, 8:00pm, 146 repeater

In This Issue:

Pg 1 – Msg from TVD

Pg 1 – Announcements

Pg 2 – Meeting Minutes

Pg 3 – Late Flash

Pg 3 – State QSO Parties

Pg 3 – CROP Walk

Pg 4 – TVD Unloads (Again)

Pg 5 – Hamfest Season?

Pg 5 – GL HAMCon Cancelled

Pg 6 – GRAHamfest 2018

Pg 7 – K8JH Ham Van

Pg 8 – The Rest of The Story

Minutes From The Meeting – 2 August 2018

Bruce Werner, WB8TVD, Secretary

Here's what you missed if you were not at the meeting on 2 August 2018:

President Dan, WA8AEN, opened the meeting about 7:05pm with 16 members and guests in attendance. Everyone introduced himself or herself as appropriate. Our guests who would be presenting their "Ham Van" were outside tending to the vehicle.

Dan passed out an attendance sheet then ran down a list of reminders:

The next Club Breakfast will be 1 September at 9:00 am at Sharon's in Rogers Heights.
The next meeting will be on 6 September 2018 at 7:00 pm at the BRDPS.
Our nets are Sunday 7:30 pm on the 440 repeater and Tuesday 9:00 pm on 2 meters.
The next ARES net will be 7 August at 8:00 pm, prior to the Club net on 2 meters.

Secretary Report: Bruce, WB8TVD, noted that the minutes for the July meeting were published in the August Newsletter. He had received no corrections or comments. The minutes for July were accepted by consensus.

Bruce offered that as there was sparse participation on the Sunday evening 440 net, he would like to try a Thursday evening net on the 440 repeater, at the same time, 7:30 pm, every Thursday except meeting nights. His reasoning was that Sunday was a family day and about 7:30, people are still doing family sorts of things. It's also a hard time to remember. Thursday was chosen since it is on the meeting night and that might be a handy way to remember the net. Consensus was that it would go on as a trial while maintaining the Sunday evening net. Bruce also received a State of Michigan request for renewal of our non-profit status.

Treasury Report: Bruce, WB8TVD, as temporary custodian, gave a summary of activity in the account at Chemical Bank, passing out a sheet listing those items mentioned in his report.

He also noted that the two dates he had gotten wrong on the summary from June had been corrected on the official file copy of the summary. The report was accepted by consensus.

EC Report: Jeff, K8OE: He bought a Signal Link to attempt some new ARES communications.

He also reminds all ARES members to sign up and log into ARES Connect. All reporting for nets and other activity, including club meetings, should be done through ARES Connect.

Repeater Report: Mike, KD8DIB: The 2-meter repeater has been up and down.

Old Business:

No old business was discussed in anticipation of the technical presentation.

New Business

Elections are scheduled for the September meeting. Dan asked if there were any nominations or volunteers for office. He, in particular, will be stepping down, leaving the office of president open.

Stan, KE8FZB, offered that he would like to run for president.

Dan notes that the office of treasurer has gone unfilled. Bruce put an exclamation point on that, with an "Amen!"

Dan revisited the discussion about the state of the Club and whether the Club focus should change, the Club should go into a stasis or what the future of the Club might be. A few thoughts

were exchanged. (TVD: We need your input!) Topics included the lack of desire of the membership to pursue office or to even take part in meetings. There were no further conclusions or discussion.

Tech Corner Would be suspended for this evening in lieu of the presentation.

The 50/50 drawing was not held in the absence of Shila, KD8IAL.

Stan, KE8FZB, & Liz, KE8ISH, will bring refreshments to the next meeting.

The assembly recessed outside to view the "Ham Van" that was purchased and modified by Jim, K8JH. (TVD: Photos and description will be a separate item in the September newsletter.)

President Dan adjourned the meeting about 8:30 pm. No Hams or guests were harmed in the conduct of business. We all went home. Well, mostly.

LATE FLASH

As I put together the newsletter, there is news that the owner(s) of the property that hosts the WDEE tower (with our repeater and the IRA Link) wants the tower removed. The reason is unclear at the moment, but I assume there is some future plan for the land. The tower and building housing the antennas and equipment, respectively, will eventually be removed.

WDEE will need to relocate to a new antenna tower, and may still be willing to share their new home with us. I hope we will have more information at the meeting on 6 September.

September State QSO Parties

- (Check with QST Contest Corral for details)
- Alabama
- Colorado
- Iowa
- Maine
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Washington

CROP Walk

The Walk is 7 October this year and will start and finish at the IRC Connector as in the past. Our organizing time will be 1:00 pm. Registration at 1:30 and step-off at 2:00 pm. It should be through about 4:00 pm. Sign up at the meetings or send me an e-mail if you would like to participate.

Unfortunately, Alabama, Colorado and Tennessee have slipped by.

TVD Snit -- September 2018

Everyone is busy, even me, believe it or not, but many people complain about spending a couple hours a month (a month!) at a meeting, calling it a waste of time. A couple hours a month! Many have quit the Club for simply that reason. What irks me most are those who leave on the “busy” card, or because the Club isn’t what they wanted without so much a single word of what they do want, without supporting the Club’s activities (Field Day for one) or serving in a Club office.

Remember, this is a hobby with a public service calling. Are you so busy you can’t spend a couple hours a month at a meeting? If you are that busy, how do you participate in this great hobby of ours? People complain the repeater is deathly quiet. Someone must be listening to make the judgement that the repeaters are quiet. Put your finger on the trigger and make calls or answer calls from Hams passing through our area. There are Hams passing through the area trying to get ahold of someone, aren’t there? Does anyone get on either repeater and chit-chat?

Do any of our former or non-members feel like they should not be using the repeaters? They are open repeaters, and anyone can use them. Does anyone feel like they will be trapped into participating if they use the repeaters? If you don’t use the repeaters, and are willing to tell me why, please drop me a note: wb8tvd@gmail.com It’s just between you and me.

If you are a member, give BRA-ARC a couple hours a month of your time to participate in the meetings. If you are a former member or never have been (assuming you are reading the newsletters online or someone has shared with you), please consider dropping by a meeting, to join and bring your ideas and enthusiasm. If you are a member and know someone who is not, invite him or her.

Someone used the term “new blood”. We can always use new blood, but we need the “old blood” to show some fire and enthusiasm. If you have an idea, don’t sit on it, speak up!

Come on, people! Nobody can be so busy they can’t support the Club with a couple hours of their time a month and to use the repeaters open and available to all.

What say?

See you at the next meeting?

73

Bruce, WB8TVD

HAMFEST SEASON?

Someone questioned my use of the term “Hamfest Season.” I will assume that person lives in or near a big city and has access to Hamfests year ’round. Being in a rural community, surrounded by rural communities for miles around (one could say, “for decades around”), the lack of Hamfests is deafening. Once the first snowfall arrives, either snowbirds fly away to warmer climates, or the rest of us hunker down and move around as little as possible. Driving multiple miles in the Summer is bad enough, having to arrive for an opening time of 8:00am. Worse is that the closing time for most ’fests is Noon. I arrived at a Hamfest after 11:00 to find that the front desk was closing up, most of the sellers had cleared out and the main door prize had already been awarded. I was given free entry to see what scraps were still available.

I count our season from the Cadillac ’fest in May to the GRARA ’fest in September (coming up shortly). One could stretch one’s luck and go to Traverse City in February (2 hours in good weather). And there are numerous Hamfests during the Summer, including Midland and Kalamazoo. But those of us with less adventurous constitutions stay closer to home.

A new Hamfest was (yes, “was”) the Great Lakes HamCon in Brooklyn on the grounds of Michigan International Speedway. For some of the usual reasons, there will not be a GL HamCon 2. Perhaps next year, or the year after that. But for now, our West Michigan Hamfest Season is over after the GRARA Hamfest in September.

Speaking of Great Lakes HAMCon, from ARRL Website:

Great Lakes HamCon 2018 has been Cancelled

08/06/2018

Great Lakes HamCon 2.0, set to occur in October at Michigan International Speedway, has been cancelled. This would have been the second Great Lakes HamCon, which had been sanctioned as the 2018 ARRL Michigan State Convention. In announcing the cancellation, sponsors said failure to come to a final agreement for the use of the speedway led to the difficult decision to cancel the event. “With just 2 months remaining before the event, the issues caused by the lack of agreement were found to be insurmountable,” the announcement said.

All who purchased tickets will receive refunds. PayPal ticket purchases will be handled via PayPal. Sponsors said arrangements for refunds for cash purchases are being formulated and will be announced soon. “The support of our affiliated Amateur Radio clubs and their members was very much appreciated,” the announcement said. “We share your disappointment that this year’s event cannot be held. Thank you for your understanding.”



GRAHamfest 2018

Grand Rapids Area Hamfest
Saturday, September 8th
 an ARRL Approved Hamfest

The Home School Building
5625 Burlingame, SW
Wyoming, MI 49509-9702

Annual Electronics, Ham Radio, Shortwave
 CB and Computer Equipment, Trains, Airplanes
or just about anything with an electron in it!
 Swap Meet / Flea Market

Opens at 8 AM

Ends at 1:00 PM

Seller Setup: Friday 7- 9PM, & Saturday 7AM

(Vendors only prior to 8AM)

Indoor and Outdoor Sales

Laurel VE Session - 10AM

[DX Card on-site checking](#)

Concessions provided on-site

Admission: \$5 at the door

K-12 students free admission

with student ID

See: www.w8dc.org

for updates and

additional information.

Main Prize is a Kenwood TH-D74A!!

Must be present to win this prize.

Drawing for other prizes during the swap meet!

General questions:

KC8NKA 616-531-6218

Table reservations:

Bob Moe 616-648-6087

AC8ZX@arrl.net

Deadline for advance paid

reservations: August 25th

Make checks payable to:

G.R.A.R.A.

Tables unclaimed after 8 AM are

available first-come basis!

No refunds on unclaimed tables!

Reservation form and payment to:

Bob Moe AC8ZX

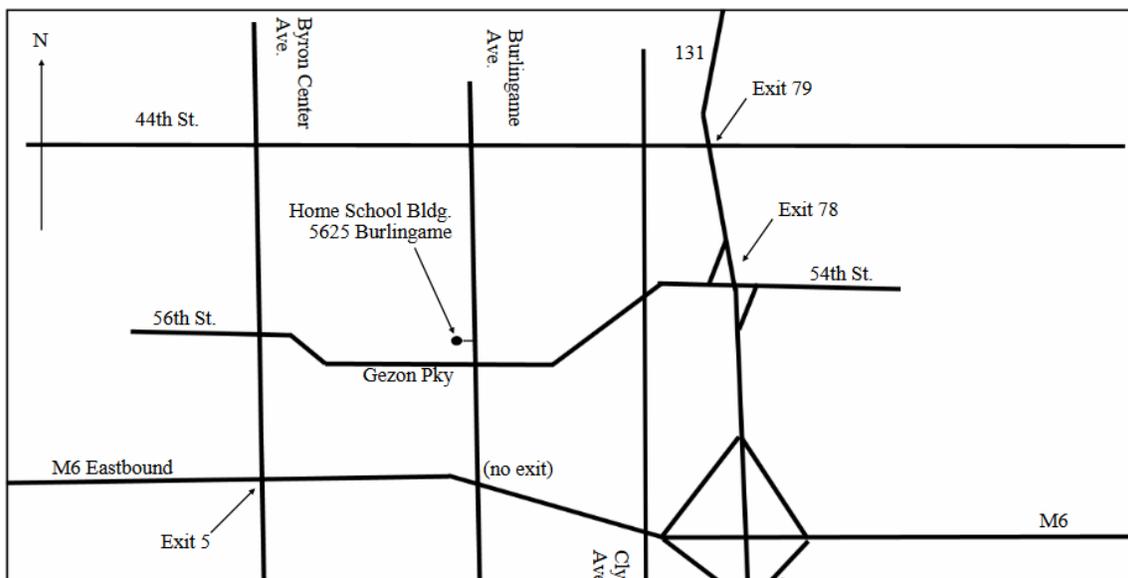
2235 Valentine Blvd NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49525



Talk-In: W8DC on 147.26+ (94.8HZ PL)

From the North:
 Take 131 South, to exit 78 / 54th St. Turn right onto 54th St. (turns into Gezon Pkwy) Drive 1.1 mi. Turn right onto Burlingame Ave. Turn left into the Home School Building.



At the August meeting, our presentation was by Jim, K8JH, and two partners, we got a good glimpse of the “Ham Van” purchased from a TV station, through a broker in Upstate New York. Several people had a hand in restoring it and converting it to Ham Radio use. Jim and friends operated the van in some rare grid squares and have proved its usefulness in the field for Emergency Communications. The pneumatically raised mast is 45’ tall. In these photos, Jim has a homebrew spider beam for 20 meters and a 6-meter beam. The whole thing is topped by a strobe beacon. (All pictures WB8TVD)



The van has a generator and a variety of accessories and spare parts. The operating position would rival any home station. Jim’s story of purchasing the van and returning it to Michigan is almost a tale of adventure!



Bits & Pieces Of This & That

September in Michigan (source ARRL):

8 September 2018	GRAHamfest	Wyoming, MI
16 September 2018	Adrian Hamfest	Adrian, MI
22 September 2018	GMARC Fall Trunk Swap	Shelby Township, MI

The GRAHamfest closes out the Hamfest Season in West Michigan. It may be a good time to get on VHF/UHF and see what's brewing. Good hunting!! At the Hamfest and on the air!

If you would rather receive an e-mail version of the newsletter, let the secretary know!

September 2018

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